

Chapter 2 – Policy Requirements

A. IHFA Suspension Policy

The IHFA Suspension Policy has been revised to include four varying levels of suspension. Examples of each suspension level are given below. The list provided, however, is not intended to be comprehensive. Entities may be suspended for performance problems or other issues not listed as examples.

IHFA will hold all responsible parties – award recipients, subrecipients, and administrators - accountable for grant and/or loan performance. IHFA, in its sole discretion, may suspend or disbar individual persons as well as organizations from participation in IHFA funding programs.

IHFA reserves the right to alter the specific terms of a suspension for reasons including, but not limited to, an award recipient's, subrecipient's, or administrator's response to concerns, past performance history, and IHFA objectives.

Level 1 Suspension

Suspended from drawing funds and/or submitting applications until issue is resolved

- Staff recommendation – This could include, but is not limited to, a lack of performance on an existing award, entities unprepared for a compliance monitoring, or deficiencies noted during a review of required reporting.
- Any overdue IHFA required report including, but not limited to: Semi-Annuals, Annual Rental Reports, or Trust Fund Beneficiary Reports. Reports will be considered overdue on the 10th calendar day following due date.
- An overdue monitoring response.
- Unresolved issues remaining after an award recipient's 2nd monitoring response.
- A property with code violations not corrected within the timeframe provided on the physical inspection report.
- A lapse in required builders risk or property insurance.
- An overdue loan payment. Payments will be considered overdue on the 10th calendar day following due date.
- Any overdue documentation required by IHFA.

Level 2 Suspension

Suspended from drawing funds and/or submitting applications for up to 6 months

- Any Level 1 Suspension that has remained uncorrected for 3 months.
- An award recipient serving over income clients.
- An award recipient not meeting beneficiary income commitments.
- Any loan payment overdue from an organization for the second time within 2 years.

Level 3 Suspension

Suspended from drawing funds and/or submitting applications for up to 5 years

- Any Level 2 Suspension that has remained uncorrected for 3 months.
- An award recipient with multiple compliance issues and/or repeated violations.
- An award recipient with egregious issues or that has committed negligent activities.
- Any loan payment overdue from an organization for third time within 2 years.

Level 4 Suspension

Permanent disbarment from all IHFA programs

- An award recipient that shows intentional disregard and violates IHFA and/or HUD regulations and policies.

B. Administrator Procurement

Administrator's of IHFA awards are often not identified on the Housing From Shelters to Homeownership applications that are submitted to IHFA. While this action is not a violation of IHFA policy, the action of intentionally excluding an administrator from an application because of the possibility that this entity will not pass the required threshold review but then procuring that same entity after an award is made is of concern. Additionally, neither applicants nor recipients may contract with a related party of an entity ineligible to participate in the funding cycle as a means of avoiding IHFA's threshold requirements.

Subsequently, when an award administrator is procured after an IHFA award is made, this entity must meet IHFA approval. IHFA will evaluate the administrator in the following areas:

- **Threshold Criteria #11:** *IHFA reserves the right to disqualify from funding any applicant, subrecipient, or administrator that has a history of disregarding the policies, procedures, or staff directives associated with administering IHFA programs or the programs of other affordable housing funders such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Rural Development, or Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis. This includes being on the IHFA suspension list.*
- **Threshold Criteria #17:** *If an applicant, subrecipient, administrator, application preparer, or related parties submits more than one CDBG or HOME Housing from Shelters to Homeownership application for separate housing activities in a single funding round and the combined request exceeds \$1,000,000, none of that entity's submissions will be reviewed. IHFA will review the applications and the request amounts from the funding round in which the procuring organization was funded. The organization that is requesting to be procured as an administrator must be within the \$1,000,000 cap for that particular funding round.*
- **Threshold Criteria #18:** *The applicant, subrecipient, and administrator must pass IHFA's performance evaluation of time elapsed versus funds drawn as of the application deadline for all open, non-expired HOME or CDBG Housing from Shelters to Homeownership or HOME/RHTC grants for which it serves as an applicant, subrecipient, or administrator. This is calculated by taking the percent of time an award has been open and subtracting the percent of funds that have been expended. Funds expended will only count if the draw request is received by IHFA by the application deadline. Only whole months that have expired will be counted. An award is considered open on the date the agreement is signed by IHFA's Executive Director. Good (<0%) and acceptable (0-15%) ratings will pass threshold. Applicants, subrecipients, or administrators with a poor (16-30%) rating will be carefully reviewed to determine performance capability. Applicants, subrecipients, or administrators with unacceptable (>30%) performance will fail threshold. A six-month grace period will be allowed for new awards (i.e., any award that is 6 months old or less will not be required to meet*

these same criteria). This criterion will be evaluated the day that the procuring organization requests approval of an administrator by IHFA.

A related party is defined as an entity that, either directly or indirectly, is wholly or partially owned or controlled by an applicant, subrecipient, administrator, or application preparer. And/or an entity in which an applicant, subrecipient, administrator, or application preparer has any financial interest.

Enclosed is the form that should be filled out and submitted to your IHFA Development Specialist when requesting to procure an award administrator after an award has been funded. The form is also available on IHFA's website at www.indianahousing.org.

The award recipient must receive IHFA approval prior to executing a contract with the administrator. Failing to receive approval may jeopardize receiving reimbursement for claims involving work conducted by the award administrator.

C. Lease Language

Leases at a minimum must include the following:

- Effective date of lease;
- End date of lease (must be for at least one year unless mutual agreement between tenant and owner for a shorter period);
- Amount of rent payment;
- Who pays the utilities;
- Termination Policy (must give at least 30 days notice);
- Renewal Process;
- Occupants of the lease;
- Signature of Tenant;
- Signature of Owner/Property Manager: and
- Date of Execution.

The lease may not contain any of the following language:

- Agreement to be sued. Agreement by the tenant to be sued, to admit guilt, or to a judgment in favor of the owner in a lawsuit brought in connection with the lease;
- Treatment of property. Agreement by the tenant that the owner may take, hold, or sell personal property of household members without notice to the tenant and a court decision on the rights of the parties. This prohibition, however, does not apply to an agreement by the tenant concerning disposition of personal property remaining in the housing unit after the tenant has moved out of the unit. The owner may dispose of this personal property in accordance with State law;
- Excusing owner from responsibility. Agreement by the tenant not to hold the owner or the owner's agents legally responsible for any action or failure to act, whether intentional or negligent;
- Waiver of notice. Agreement of the tenant that the owner may institute a lawsuit without notice to the tenant;
- Waiver of legal proceedings. Agreement by the tenant that the owner may evict the tenant or household members without instituting a civil court proceeding in which the tenant has the opportunity to present a defense, or before a court decision on the rights of the parties;

- Waiver of a jury trial. Agreement by the tenant to waive any right to a trial by jury;
- Waiver of right to appeal court decision. Agreement by the tenant to waive the tenant's right to appeal, or to otherwise challenge in court, a court decision in connection with the lease; and
- Tenant chargeable with cost of legal actions regardless of outcome. Agreement by the tenant to pay attorney's fees or other legal costs even if the tenant wins in a court proceeding by the owner against the tenant. The tenant, however, may be obligated to pay costs if the tenant loses.

D Exhibits

A Award Administrator Approval Form